

Hawaii MARINE

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Hummer assumes helm



Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Steven A. Hummer (left), base commander, and Col. Michael O'Neal, deputy commander, exchange the flag during a change of command ceremony, Friday, while Sgt. Maj. Anthony Franks, base sergeant major, looks on.

Col. O'Neal takes over duties as deputy commander

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Press Chief

Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Steven A. Hummer assumed command of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, in a change of command ceremony, Friday, at Dewey Square. Col. Michael C. O'Neal stepped down from his position as the base commander, a title he held for the past 90 days.

"It was an honor commanding this base," said O'Neal, who relinquished his command and re-assumed the position of deputy commander, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

O'Neal took time to thank individuals, units, Marines, Sailors and civilians during his speech, before handing the microphone over to Hummer.

While addressing the attendees of the ceremony, Hummer also thanked many individuals and gave an overview of his objectives as the new base commander.

"We are thrilled to be back here," said Hummer, referring to himself and his wife. Hummer was stationed on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, 27 years ago. "This base has done a tremendous job, and I intend on continuing that legacy by concentrating on the service members, families, civilians, the Hawaiian community, and the environment."

Hummer came to Hawaii from Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as the chief of staff for Joint Special Operations Command for two years.

He first began his career in 1970 when he enlisted in Marine Corps, being promoted to the rank to sergeant before

graduating from Albright College, Reading, Pa., with a Bachelor of Science Degree in psycho-biology. Soon after obtaining his degree, he was commissioned and has served since as a Marine Corps officer.

Throughout his career as a company grade officer, Hummer took on many job titles and responsibilities such as rifle platoon commander, battalion training officer, battalion operations officer and company commander. As a field grade officer he took on assignments, which included officer-in-charge, assistant future plans officer and commanding officer.

During his time in the Corps, he served with Marines from 3rd Battalion,

See COMMAND, A-8

Festival displays spirit of aloha

Pfc. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

For nearly 60 years, Hawaii has celebrated its culture and heritage, with more than 300 events on six islands within a two-month period of time. People come to the Hawaiian Islands from all over the world to attend the many events that take place during these Aloha Festivals.

Every year the Aloha Festivals chooses a theme for its celebrations. This year's theme is "Na Honu Hawaii — The Spirit Within," which celebrates the long relationship Hawaiians have had with the sea turtle. These tranquil animals have symbolized peace, longevity, and the spirit within which Hawaiians and have always thought to represent love, hope and humility to the whole world.

The festivals' royal court, consisting of a king, queen, prince and princess, is chosen every year by the members of the Aloha Festivals board. The members of the court are selected from among applicants who are of Hawaiian descent. Kings and queens must be ages 30 and older while the prince and princess must be between the ages of 16 and 20. The chosen prince and princess are awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Once known as Aloha Week, the festivities began in 1946 when the Hawaii Jaycees created a public celebration that paid tribute to Hawaii's music, dance and history to help preserve Hawaii's unique traditions. This celebration became a tradition in itself. Aloha Week grew into the celebrations of today, and in 1991 the name was changed to Aloha Festivals.

During the Aloha Festivals, each island hosts events that are unique to that island. The Ms. Aloha Nui contest, which is a beauty contest for women who weigh 200 pounds or more, is held on the Island of Hawaii. On Maui, people gather under the largest banyan tree in Hawaii to have the Lahaina Banyan Tree Hoolaulea.

The opening ceremonies here on Oahu were initiated at Iolani Palace in Honolulu, Sept. 8. At 5:30 p.m., the royal court gathered on the steps of

See ALOHA, A-7



Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Retired Sgt. Maj. Robert Skyhawk (back right) holds the star spangled banner with one hand, Sunday, as the Marines of Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, lift the American flag from both sides to even it before folding. The Marines performed a colors and flag-folding ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial in front of an audience of more than 200 visitors, in dedication of the lives lost in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania, Sept. 11, 2001.

Marines raise colors, honor Sept. 11

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Sports Editor

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — A dozen Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, volunteered to raise the American flag over the USS Arizona Memorial, Sunday, in honor of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

Led by retired Sgt. Maj. Robert Skyhawk and Staff Sgt. Mike Lawrence, both adorned in their "Dress Blues," the Marines performed the flag-raising ceremony in front of the morning's first boatload of nearly 200 visitors.

"It was an honor to be a part of such a wonderful tribute to the fallen," said Cpl. John W. McJunkin,

finance clerk with the Installation Personnel Administration Center and MCB Hawaii Marine of the Year, 2004. "They paid the ultimate price — any tribute to honor them is the very least we could do."

The USS Arizona Memorial honors the more than 2,400 lives lost at Pearl Harbor in 1941, of which 1,177, alone, were aboard USS Arizona. The attack on Pearl Harbor marked the largest loss of life the United States had ever suffered from a single act of war on home soil; but on Sept. 11, 2001, another attack was orchestrated and carried out by terrorists on American soil that left more than 2,750 dead. As was done after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war shortly thereafter.

"The Marines do such a fantastic, professional job wherever they go," said Patrick Brent, former Marine

and chairman of Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center, Inc. "We were very impressed and proud to have the Marines here to raise the colors."

After the flag-raising ceremony, Brent treated all of the Marines who volunteered to lunch at the dining facility at the visitor's center that was designed to look exactly like it would have in 1942. Serving Greek-style gyros, burgers, pineapple-vanilla ice cream and other delectables, the Marines enjoyed their meal and the time spent honoring the service members and citizens who perished on Sept. 11, 2001, and Dec. 7, 1941.

"I really enjoyed the morning," said McJunkin, "and I don't think I could have come up with a better way of spending my Sunday — especially this Sunday."

UFL builds on U.S., R.O.K. relationship

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

COMBINED MARINE FORCES COMMAND, CAMP BARAN, Republic of Korea — Marines and Sailors from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific recently deployed to South Korea to participate in the 31st annual "Ulchi Focus Lens-05" training exercise.

The purpose of UFL-05 is to build on the already strong bilateral relationship between the Republic of Korea and U.S. forces, while increasing the effectiveness of combined fighting forces.

UFL-05 is a scenario-driven exercise that tests U.S. and R.O.K. higher headquarters staffs' ability to maneuver armies, corps, and Marine expeditionary forces on a computer-

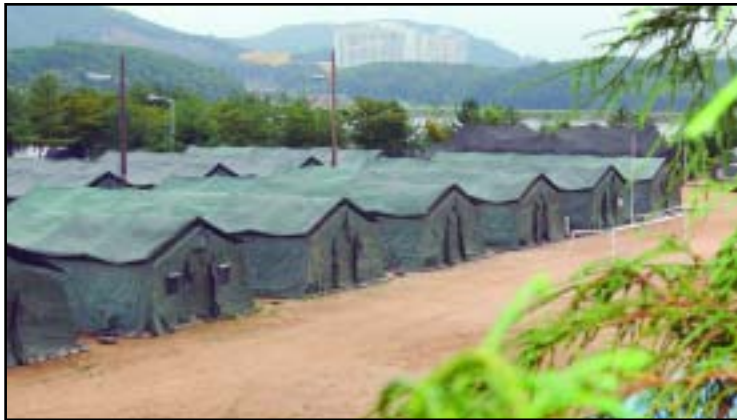
simulated battlefield.

The experience gained by Marines and Sailors during the exercise increases the overall combat effectiveness of the Marine Corps and improves its ability to operate as part of a coalition. These experiences also give them a knowledge base needed for real situations they may face in the future.

"I don't know how much I really impact the overall exercise, but I know I have to ensure all aviation units are prepared to support the war-fighters on the ground," said Capt. Tegan K. Owen. "Each of us has a job to do, and I try to do mine well."

During UFL-05, Marines were faced with more than normal job requirements. Language and cultural differences provide

See ROK, A-6



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Marines and Sailors from U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific recently deployed to South Korea to participate in the 31st annual "Ulchi Focus Lens-05" training exercise. Marines lived in a tent city, nestled in the green foothills of South Korea near Osan.

NEWS BRIEFS

Basewide Staff NCO Call

Mark Friday at 4 p.m. on your calendar for a Staff NCO Call at the club.
For more information, call the Staff NCO Club at 254-5481.

IPAC Blood Drive

A blood drive will be held at IPAC, Building 1033, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 28. The blood donated will be used to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina.
For more information contact Cpl. Gonzales at 257-3197, ext. 228.

Construction Underway on Camp H.M. Smith’s Barrier Wall

Construction of a barrier wall that will extend along Halawa Heights Road, from Camp H.M. Smith’s Main Gate to the “Echo” Gate, back gate, is underway.
The wall will be constructed in phases with each phase effecting 200 feet of fencing. The contractor has obtained a “Street Use Permit” from the State of Hawaii in order to perform this work, and, although the contractor will provide traffic control, drivers using Halawa Heights Road should expect delays until the projected completion date in January 2006.
Contractors will be working on the barrier wall weekdays from 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Deliveries and “noisy” activities will be restricted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
For information, contact Edmund Urabe at 477-8802.

Hawaii Military COLA Survey

All military, Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration uniform service personnel stationed in the state of Hawaii are encouraged to complete a military Cost of Living Allowance survey, sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command, until the end of this month.
The Office of the Secretary of Defense requires Headquarters Pacific Command to conduct the survey once every three years to adjust COLA rates for Hawaii uniform service personnel. Service members will have the opportunity to complete the survey over the Internet. Accuracy in completing the survey is critical to the COLA determination process. The Living Pattern survey is available online through September at www.perdiem.osd.mil/oscola/lps/hawaii.
Point of contact at HQ USPACOM is Eddie Fowler at 477-1396 or e-mail: eddie.fowler@pacom.mil.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the “Letters to the Editor” section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

E-Mail: editor@hawaiimarine.com, with “Letters to the Editor” in the subject line.
Mail: Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863
Fax: (808) 257-2511

HI 5¢ Redemption Site

HI 5¢ redemption services are available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m every Friday in the parking lot across from the PX Annex.
For more information, call Jim Sibert, Base Recycling at 257-4300.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
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Combat Correspondent	Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Press Chief	Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent	Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent	Pfc. Edward deBree

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MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8835

In the Commander’s Mailbox



HUMMER

Sir,

My name is Gunnery Sgt. Killalea. I am a Marine who works aboard Pearl Harbor but lives aboard MCBH Kaneohe. My concern is regarding the extreme differences in the gas prices between MCCS Kaneohe gas station and the NEX Pearl Harbor gas stations. On any given day, the gas prices at NEX are between 4 to 10 cents cheaper than the prices at the MCCS Kaneohe gas station. I guess I just don’t understand why MCCS is getting away with charging our community so much more per gallon.
I do not have a solution for this problem; I just felt it was worthy of mentioning on your level. I myself will continue to purchase gas on the Navy side.

R/S,
Gunnery Sgt. Audrea L. Killalea

Dear Gunnery Sgt. Killalea,

I was asked by the commander to respond to your e-mail of 19 August because your concern falls within my staff responsibilities. We appreciate that you took the time to participate in the “Commander’s Mail” program.
You have asked why gasoline prices at Marine Corps Base Hawaii sometimes differ from Navy Exchange gas prices at Pearl Harbor. We appreciate this question because it provides an opportunity to

The base commander invites input from the base community via the Commander’s Mailbox on the following topics:
•What are we doing that we shouldn’t be doing?
•What are we not doing that we should be doing?
•What are we doing that we should be doing better?
Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address.
E-mail your suggestions to the base commander at CGMAIL@mcbh.usmc.mil.
If you don’t have an e-mail account, you can fax

your suggestions to 257-3290, or you can mail them to:
Base Commander (Attn: CG Mail)
MCB Hawaii
Box 63002
MCB Kaneohe Bay, HI
96863-3002
Your suggestions can also be dropped off in person on base at the Adjutant’s Office in Building 216, Room 1.
(Editor’s Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

inform our community about gasoline prices and how the money you spend on base contributes to Marine Corps Community Services programs and facilities.
Although we compare prices with other military exchanges, we do not always match prices because our costs may differ at the time we receive the gasoline. Gasoline shipments arrive several times a week. Because the Marine Corps’ MCX is decentralized, we are able to adjust prices quicker than the other centralized exchange operations of NEXCOM and AAFES.
We price gasoline to cover our costs and provide a savings to the customer over local community prices. We also try to achieve a small dividend for support of MCCS programs. This is not always possible because the cost of gasoline has increased steeply and sometimes daily during the past year.
Our survey of 17 August indicates that our gas prices were the same as Navy at \$2.589 for regular, \$2.699 for mid-grade, and \$2.789 for premium. Our savings over the average local community prices were 6 cents, 5 cents, and 6 cents, by grade.
Our survey dated 22 August had prices 5 cents higher than Navy Exchange and 6 cents lower than the outside community. Since the beginning of the year, we have an overall savings of 6.6 cents, compared to the local community.
MCX dividends subsidize many MCCS programs such as the Single Marine & Sailor Program, the hourly Child Care Program,

Youth Activities, the Base Library, the Semper Fit Center and sports programs, the Key Volunteer Network, the L.I.N.K.S. program, The Officers’ and Staff NCO clubs, and unit party funds, just to name a few.
Dividends also provide funding for new facilities such as Kahuna’s Recreation Center, the In-Line Skate Park, and the Marine Mart. Other projects this year include an automated car wash, lights for the golf driving range, new gas lanes at the Marine Mart, and a 26-room expansion for the Lodge at Kaneohe Bay.
The Navy Exchange, Army and Air Force Exchange, and off-base businesses share no dividends with MCCS, but all MCX dividends support MCCS programs and services aboard MCBH.
Our MCCS goal is to make every effort to provide a gasoline savings for our customers over local prices, to be competitive with other exchange gas stations and to generate a dividend to support base MCCS programs.
Should you have further questions about gasoline prices, please contact me at 254-7574.
We appreciate your thoughtful comments and concerns, and thanks again for taking the time to participate in the “Commander’s Mail” program.

Sincerely,
William B. Lindsey
Assistant Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Community Services

Marines needed for recruiter assistance

Press Release

Recruiting Station Pittsburgh

Want an opportunity to earn promotion points and spend up to 30 days at home without taking leave? The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Pittsburgh, Pa., is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. RS Pittsburgh covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Cameron, Center, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Elk,

Fayette, Forest, Green Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Lawrence, Lycoming, Mercer, Milflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Somerset, Sullivan, Union, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland.
This is the perfect opportunity to earn those extra points you need to excel past your peers and gain your next promotion. Up to 100 points toward your promotion can be earned during time spent on recruiter assistance.
While you’re at home, you can expect to

spend time with recruiters who will be talking with young men and women around town, at the mall, and even at the high school you attended. You will speak with people about joining the Marine Corps and tell them what to expect once they’ve decide to join. You will also work with “poolees” on their physical fitness, knowledge and more.
For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Gunnery Sgt. Bruce G. Benkart at (412) 395-6355.

DoD seeks civilian employee volunteers for Katrina relief

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — In light of the ongoing need for volunteers to support hurricane relief efforts in the Gulf, the Defense Department is encouraging its federal civilian employees to consider participating.
In a Sept. 8 memo to department leaders, David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, urged DoD employees to offer their services, as long as it doesn’t impact on their immediate defense mission.
In a related move, Chu announced DoD’s participation in an emergency leave transfer program to help employees effected by Hurricane Katrina. That measure, authorized throughout the federal government by President Bush, will allow DoD civilian

employees to donate unused annual leave to other federal civilian employees who need more time off from work due to the hurricane.
DoD components are establishing programs and are expected to begin seeking leave donors as well as requests for help, soon.
In his memo regarding the volunteer program, Chu noted that the Department of Homeland Security anticipates the need for 2,000 volunteers to help with the federal government’s response and recovery efforts currently underway. As a result, he said, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is offering federal civilian employees the opportunity to volunteer for 14- to 30-day deployments to effected areas to help support DoD efforts.
Volunteers will remain on the DoD pay-

rolls and will be in a temporary-duty status while performing their volunteer service, Chu said.
Mark Smith from the Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service said he expects the program to become an ongoing effort between DoD and FEMA, with ongoing volunteer rotations for the foreseeable future.
While encouraging employees to volunteer, Chu emphasized that they must receive their supervisor’s approval before volunteering, and that their temporary absence from the workplace “cannot diminish or compromise service or support to our critical DoD mission.”
Volunteers must go through their Defense Department component point of

See DOD, A-8

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — mostly cloudy skies becoming partly cloudy; early morning showers northeasterly to easterly winds, 10 to 12 mph with gusts to 20 mph

Night — partly to mostly cloudy skies; isolated showers northeasterly to easterly winds, 8 to 10 mph with isolated gusts to 16 mph
High — 85 Low — 76

Saturday



Day — partly to mostly cloudy skies throughout the day; isolated showers during the morning; easterly winds, 10 to 12 mph, gusts to 18 mph

Night — partly cloudy skies; easterly winds, 8 to 10 mph with gust to 16 mph
High — 85 Low — 76

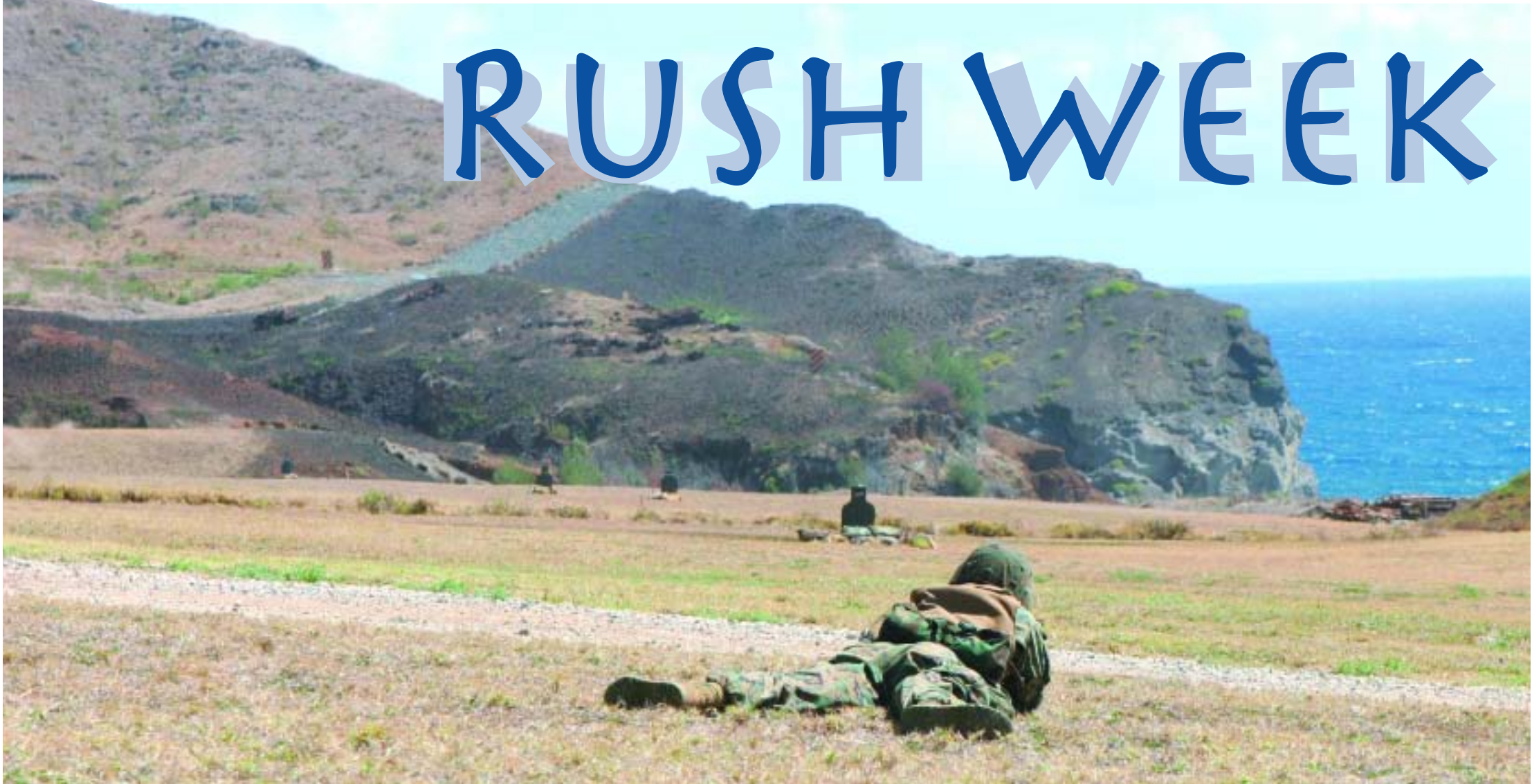
Sunday



Day — partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated morning showers; easterly winds, 10 to 12 mph with gusts to 18 mph

Night — partly to mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers throughout the night; northeasterly to easterly winds, 8 to 10 mph with gusts to 16 mph
High — 85 Low — 76

RUSH WEEK



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

A Marine with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, sights in on a pop-up target during a fire team rushing exercise, Sept. 7, at Range 5, on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The Marines participated in a training evolution that tested their shooting and endurance skills throughout the two-day exercise.

Lima Company, 3/3, performs fire and movement exercise



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

A Marine with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, dives to the ground in order to quickly get into a good shooting position. Throughout the course, Marines performed various shooting techniques in order to find methods that increased their speed and accuracy over terrain that included grass, gravel, a hill and a ditch.

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

In preparation for their upcoming deployment to Iraq, the Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, took part in a fire and movement range training session at Range 5 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Sept. 7 and 8.

The training created unit cohesion and provided a competitive edge as a fire team competition took place during the exercise, according to 1st Lt. Luke Lazzo, platoon commander, 2nd Platoon, Lima Company, 3/3.

“We have a lot of new Marines, and the training allowed for the more experienced Marines to provide them with a lot of

information,” said the Rochester Hills, Mich. native. “A lot of them just arrived from SOI (School of Infantry) and have only been here a few weeks. They all seem to be catching on quickly, due to the experience of the other Marines who are teaching them.”

There were roughly 120 Marines who took part in the training, and, for a few, it was an entirely new training experience as well as training for the first time with 3/3.

“This is my first week with Lima Company, and it’s so much different then SOI,” admitted Pfc. Brad Meade, 203 gunner, 3rd platoon, Lima Company, 3/3. “Everything is a lot more in depth then I thought it would be. You have to think on your own more, and the pace is faster, but I like it a lot.”

The Long Mont, Colo. native, who arrived with four



other Marines to 3rd Platoon, said he is looking forward to the upcoming deployment with the battalion.

“I can tell all the training now, and the training in the near future, is going to provide me and the other new Marines with a lot of good insight on how things go in the fleet,” said the 19-year-old. “I’m really looking forward to the upcoming deployment, and I’m not as worried as I thought I would be — just because I know the Marines that

Lance Cpl. Kristopher Jones, rifleman, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, kneels down in order to achieve the best shooting position during a rushing exercise Sept. 7. Jones and other Marines with Lima Company utilized various shooting positions throughout the course in order to maintain quick, steady and accurate shots.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, take part in fire and movement range training to prepare themselves for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson



Lance Cpl. Kristopher Jones, rifleman, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, takes a quick break in order to change magazines before continuing on with a rushing exercise, Sept 7. The Marines were not only required to accurately and quickly perform the rushes, they were also required to respond to different situations such as jammed weapons and completely running out of ammunition.

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner



Marine spouses learn Corps’ way

Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson
Combat Correspondent

An event put together by 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, called the “Jane Wayne Day” was designed to give 1/3 spouses a taste of what infantryman go through during their training, so on Sept. 10, the event ran the full gamut at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The “Jane Wayne Day” event was inspired by the famous actor who typically played the part of a gunslinger of the west, John Wayne, who passed away in 1979.

“We started at about 11 a.m. with a weapons display,” said Sandra Myers, spouse. “We got to assemble and disassemble the M16-A2 service rifle to obtain more knowledge about the gun.”

After the spouses were taught the basics of the M16, they were then taken to the K-Bay range to fire the weapon.

“All of the spouses were given twenty bullets,” said Myers. “We shot from different positions — like laying on the ground and sitting down. The coaches helping us were very helpful with the instructions.”

The spouses were then taken to the repel tower where they were given the opportunity to repel down the side.

“They were just trying to give us a taste of all the things that Marines have to go through,” said Myers. “I look at my husband’s work from a totally different perspective now that I know what he has to go through.”

The spouses were then given a chance to conquer the obstacle course that Marines use for their training.

“This was the hardest part for me,” admitted Jodi Weikum, spouse of a 1/3 Marine. “Shooting the guns and learning about them was easy; the ‘O’ course actually took some effort and was tiring.”

Myers said the Jane Wayne event was very informative and she would love to do it again.

“I had heard a lot about them doing these events but never was able to do one,” said Myers, “I’m glad I got to, because it was awesome, and I had lots of fun. I also got to meet a lot of the other Marines’ wives and made a lot of new friends. I’m defiantly looking forward to the next time I can get the chance to do the event.”

As said by John Wayne in the 1969 movie, “The Alamo,” “There’s right and there’s wrong. You got to do one of the other. You do one and you’re living; you do the other and you may be walking around, but in reality, you’re dead.”



Lance Cpl. Roger L. Nelson

A Marine assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines Regiment, explains the proper techniques for firing the M16 to Sandra Myers, a Marine spouse, Saturday, at the range on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Marines from 1/3 put on the “Jane Wayne Day” event to give 1/3 family members a sampling of what Marines do.

Red Devils’ pilots reunite at K-Bay after 50 years

Many former Marines went on to pilot commercial aircraft

Pfc. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Members of the fighter squadron VMF-232, the Red Devils, reunited in the HSL-37 hangar on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Sunday.

The squadron was home based on MCB Hawaii 50 years ago, and, for many of the pilots, this visit was their first time back.

During Sunday’s visit, the pilots revisited a place where old memories came flooding back to them and a place where they got a glimpse of what today’s Marine Corps has to offer its pilots.

“It returns me to my youth,” said retired 1st Lt. Cono Borrelli, 74, an Atlanta, Ga. native. “After being back here, I’m ready for my reenlistment.”

Members reminisced about the old days at the base and the FJ-2 and FJ-4 fighter jets that they used to fly.

“Back in those days we were just a bunch of hot shot lieutenants,” said retired Capt. Irvin Jones, a Seattle, Wash. native. “The Marine

Corps put us where we are today. Most of us went off and became pilots for commercial airlines. The Marine Corps taught us how to fly.”

A majority of the squadron members spent their active duty tour as enlisted personnel, becoming officers during time spent in the reserves, while others left to become pilots for commercial airline companies.

“It seems as though the Marines have always stayed with me,” said Borrelli. “They taught me how to fly, and after I got out, I have flown a lot of Marine recruits to Parris Island.”

The retired Marine Corps pilots were given a tour of their old hangar as well as what used to be their ready room. They were given a briefing about the different types of aircraft Marine Corps pilots fly today as well as their part in real-life operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Retired 1st Lt. William “Moose” Franklin, 74, said, “To put things into perspective, look at it this way — fifty years ago, I checked into to this squadron, and if you go back fifty years before that, that was two years after the Wright brothers flew the first plane.”



Pfc. Edward C. deBree

Former Marine Corps fighter pilots who were assigned to the VMF-232 Red Devils inspect one of the aircraft flown by Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37, home-based on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The retirees from the unit reunited, Sunday, after 50 years.



Clockwise from bottom center — Sgt. Alexander Papiernik, tactical data networking specialist, from Mineral Ridge, Ohio; Lance Cpl. Michael Hargis, data clerk; Sgt. Jeremy D. Sadler, network administrator, from Newark, Del.; and Cpl. Andrew P. Parsons, tactical data networking specialist, from Winchester, Va., all with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, pose with equipment used during their current deployment to Afghanistan. The Marines are deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

‘Geek squad’ holds key to modern war fighting

Sgt. Robert M. Storm
Combat Correspondent

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — “We are cyber-warriors; we are the future of the modern battlefield,” said a laughing Sgt. Alexander Papiernik, tactical data networking specialist, from Mineral Ridge, Ohio, when speaking of the Marines in the communications shop. The Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Marines are currently deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan, with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Marines, affectionately known as the “geek squad,” or by their military occupational specialty — 0656, tactical data networking specialists, are responsible for installing, operating and maintaining network systems. TDN spe-

cialists’ responsibilities include installing and configuring hubs, routers, bridges, and other transmission mediums. They also install and configure server hardware and software. Many times they are called upon to install, optimize and troubleshoot local- and wide-area networks, and operate the tactical data network server.

“We do everything from e-mail to live video feed from aircraft. We can deliver a real-time, instantaneous feed to anywhere in the world,” said Papiernik. “How many computer nerds do you know that have a grenade launcher? Bill Gates doesn’t.”

TDN specialists not only ensure the data communications for the battalion are kept running, they also help out fellow Marines with

See **GEEKS**, A-8

3rd Marines test advanced communication systems

Lance Cpl. J. Ethan Hoaldridge
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA BELLAWS, Hawaii — The Mobile Modular Communication and Command unit, M2C2, debuted it’s ground-breaking communication capabilities to government VIPs and media at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Sept. 8. For the last month, 3rd Marine Regiment, Communications Battalion and civilian contractors have worked with the U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific, Marine Experimentation

Center to build and test the “on-the-move” satellite communications system. Mounted on a Humvee, the system leaves a tight fit for three passengers — the driver, a data analyst and a radio operator. The rest of the space is taken up by equipment. The M2C2 utilizes wide-band satellite communications, so it does not need line-of-sight or land-line cables to operate. It has the ability to communicate by voice, data or text. The M2C2 Humvee has multiple antennas and a satellite on its roof, making it possible for the operator to receive one or

more real-time video, imaging or text messages at the same time. Because it is light weight, the M2C2 can be transported by helicopter or dropped by parachute to ground zero. “This new technology lets us establish communication on the move, quickly, instead of taking three hours to set up a tent, and at least four hours to set up radios and antennas,” said Cpl. Greg Pittman, a data analyst from 3rd Marines. The M2C2’s advantages in comparison to the current communications technology will

See **M2C2**, A-7



The Mobile Modular Communication and Command unit, M2C2, debuted its communication capabilities to government VIPs and media at the Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Sept. 8. The M2C2 Humvee has multiple antennas and a satellite on the roof, making it possible for the operator to receive one or more real-time video, imaging or text messages at the same time.

ROK, From A-1

unique experiences for both Korean and American service members.

“I would like to believe my language skills have made a difference,” said Cpl. Rollin H. Lee, who served as an interpreter during UFL-05. “I am able to make communication between the U.S. and R.O.K. Marines go smoother, allowing them to get to know each other better, makes me feel good about what I do.”

Communication played a significant role during UFL-05, but both services managed to surprise each other with cultural similarities.

“I am impressed with the R.O.K. Marines’ dedication and discipline. They are all very respectful of the U.S.

Marines and are very accommodating towards us,” said Gunnery Sgt. Heather Jo Brodersen, the electronic key management systems manager.

Sgt. Carlos A Daniels, a legal clerk from MarForPac agreed, “(The services) are different, but at the same time, ironically, the same. I didn’t realize that Marines have to deal with the same problems no matter what country they’re from.”

As a member of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, each Marine plays an integral role in maintaining peace

and stability in the Asian Pacific region.

“The reason Marines are in this vital region is to deter aggression,” said Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, the MarForPac commander. “But if that deterrence fails, we can use our strategic flexibility to project our combat capabilities anywhere in the region.”

Although Marines worked long hours and lived in tents, the exercise wasn’t all training — Marines were given the opportunity to experience the local culture.

“I was able to go on the demilitarized zone tour. The information we learned was very interesting,” said Brodersen, who lived and worked at Camp Baran, a tent city, nestled in the green foothills of South Korea near Osan. “It was a great opportunity to learn about history in the actual setting. That is a rare thing.”

For many, UFL-05 was the first opportunity for them to experience other cultures, while training with foreign services.

“Through lessons learned and relationships formed, UFL will continue to be a stepping-stone for the future, said Sgt. Douglas Dixon, an alternant EKMS manager.

“(The services) are different, but at the same time, ironically, the same.

— *Sgt. Carlos A Daniels*



On the road again

Cpl. Scott E. Tank, 22, Headquarters and Support Platoon, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, says good-bye to his 3-month-old child, Kathleen, before he heads to California. The unit is going to Bridgeport, Calif., to complete cold-weather training then to Twentynine Palms to complete desert training to prepare them for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. “Training is going to be rough, but it’s got to get done,” said Tank. “We have to get it done to get it over with.”

Pic. Edward C. deBree



Pfc. Edward C. deBree

Dancers perform a hula, Sept. 9, at the Aloha Festivals in Waikiki. People came from all over to watch hula performances, and to hear local bands and the Navy Pacific Fleet Band, who played a wide variety of music that included jazz and swing.

ALOHA, From A-1

the palace and began singing traditional chants and dancing the hula while parading to Bishop Street. This procession served as the opening of Oahu’s Aloha Festivals.

On Friday, Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki was closed to traffic and entertainers and vendors hosted the annual Waikiki Hoolaulea. This event is known as the biggest block party on Oahu. People come from all over Oahu to enjoy food, live entertainment, dancing and shopping.

“We come here every year to sell our leis and other gifts,” said Naomi Braine, a Waimanalo, Hawaii native. “We’ve been coming here for three generations now. My grandmother started the tradition of coming to the Aloha Festival, and we kept coming after that to continue the Aloha Spirit.”

Live entertainment at this year’s Aloha Festivals included local bands, hula dancers, and the Navy Pacific Fleet Band, who played a wide variety of music that included jazz and swing.

“The Aloha Festivals are a culture thing that happens every year to help bring the community together,” said Kanoe Takitani-Smith, a volunteer and Aloha Festivals ribbon seller. “It’s a great idea to bring the community together to keep the Aloha Spirit alive.”

M2C2, From A-5

make a tremendous difference on the battlefield.

“The M2C2’s capabilities will save lives by allowing our Marines to maintain communication and receive intelligence information and operational plans while on the move,” said Brig. Gen. (Sel.) Steven Hummer, base commander, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and deputy commander, U. S. Marine Forces Pacific.

The latest satellite communications, digital data and laser technology are provided by local contractors, as well as contractors from the mainland that support of the M2C2 project.

The contracted engineers were aided by senior enlisted Marines when communicating the Marine’s needs.

“We called the operators ‘warrior geeks.’ The Marines would go read up on the new technology, come back asking questions and then go to work,” said Ned Wilt, Ratheon engineering project manager. “They responded very quickly to the new technology and operation of the M2C2.”

The demonstration at Bellows was only the start of a process to integrate the M2C2 into the Marine Corps fleet.

“They’ll be in Twentynine Palms, California, conducting a live-fire, combined arms exercise, which will simulate battle conditions that will give the M2C2 an opportunity to provide communications abilities we haven’t had before,” said Hummer.

COMMAND, From A-1

3rd Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment; 7th Marines, Battalion Landing Team 1/1; 1st Marine Division; I Marine Expeditionary Force; and III MEF as well as on the 31st, 15th and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit deployments during which time he served in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I.

His supporting established duties include registrar, Marine Corps Institute; ceremonial rifle company commander, Marine Barracks, Washington; department head, Naval Expeditionary Warfare Training, Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific; and Chief of Staff, Joint Special Operations Command.

Hummer's professional military educational training consists of The Basic School, Officer's Infantry Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Command and Staff College and School of Advanced Warfighting within the Marine Corps University.

Personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with Combat V (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

GEEKS, From A-5

their own computer problems. Since it would take six weeks for a computer to make a round trip to the states to be repaired, TDN specialists are considered invaluable to the Marines who use computers to e-mail friends and family back home.

"We get two or three fix-it jobs a week. Our biggest grief is when they try to fix it themselves. When that happens, it just makes it harder on us. Marines need to bring it to us as soon as there is a problem," said Cpl. Andrew P. Parsons, tactical data networking specialist, from Winchester, Va.

The Marines execute the data plan for the battalion under the supervision of Sgt. Jeremy D. Sadler, network administrator, from Newark, Del. The linking of the forward-operating bases with secure communications is crucial to the success of the battalion in its mission. Miles of rugged terrain separate many of the bases, so support would need to be sent as quickly as possible to be effective. The use of up-to-date technology makes the range of the battalion significantly greater due to the ease of communication.

"Security and stability are the main concerns for our job. Thankfully, with NMCI we're a step closer than ever before. Now, all units will be on the same system," said Sadler.

Besides keeping the battalion in constant communication for military applications, the TDN specialists are also an important factor in morale, as they maintain the Internet, allowing Marines easy contact with their families and friends.

"When I came in the Marine Corps, we had to write letters, and you had to pay for your own stamp. Now I have Marines that can chat with their wives and even use Webcams," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Gerardo V. Panetta, battalion operations chief. "These guys are amazing. Without Marines like Papiernik and Parsons, we would be in a hurt locker. We usually have at least one computer go down a day, and we just bring it to them, and they get it right back up."

Read the *Hawaii Marine* online at www.mcbh.usmc.mil.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Brig Gen. (Sel.) Steven A. Hummer (left), base commander, and Michael O'Neal, deputy commander, return a salute to Lt. Col. James Connelly, commanding officer, Headquarters Battalion, during the pass and review portion of their change of command ceremony, Friday, at Dewey Square.

DOD, From A-2

contact, not FEMA, to offer their services, Smith emphasized.

Details about both the leave donation and volunteer programs are posted at the DoD Civilian Personnel Management Service's Web site, www.cpms.osd.mil, under the "Hurricane Katrina" link. The site also includes points of contact within DoD about where to apply for the volunteer program, Smith said.

All volunteers must be physically able to work outdoors all day in a disaster area, with long work hours under arduous conditions, officials said. They also must require no refrigerated medications.

Skills particularly in demand are bilingual capabilities in all languages, a commercial driver's license, logistics capabilities, and expertise in information technology, officials said.

Before deploying to the affected area, all volunteers will receive one day of training in Orlando, Fla., before moving to the hurricane disaster area, officials said.